OVIPOSITION AND HATCHING OF PSELLIOPUS SPINICOLLIS CHAMPION

(Heteroptera: Reduviidae)

BY J. W. TILDEN
San Jose State College, California

A single female of this species was taken on Page Mill Road, Santa Clara County, California, about three miles from Stanford University. This specimen was retained alive for forty-nine days and considerable information concerning it was obtained.

It was found to feed readily on aphids. In feeding, the reduviid moved slowly and deliberately, apparently locating the prey by sight. Intended prey was first touched lightly with the raptorial forelegs, and then seized, and brought into position for the rostrum to be inserted. The rostrum was inserted but a short distance into the tissues of the abdomen of the aphid, and the body juices were then removed rapidly, the body of the prey shrinking in the process. In no case was the aphid seen to struggle, nor was it lifted above the surface of the stem. Of what the usual food of *Pselliopus* may consist is not known, but in the laboratory only aphids were accepted although many other sorts of insects were offered.

No eggs were laid until after feeding. Eggs were laid in small groups, several in one day, with a delay of several days between ovipositions. The first eggs hatched before the second group was laid, but thereafter, the periods between oviposition were shorter. The female was captured on June 12, 1947. Five eggs were laid on June 17, five on July 6, four on July 10, five on July 21, five on July 24, and two on July 31, on the same day that the female died. Thus thirty eggs were laid during the forty-nine day period that the female was kept in the laboratory.

All of these eggs save two were placed on the under surface of the cloth closure of the container in which the insect was kept. These two were placed on the under surface of leaves. It would seem that this species normally oviposits on the lower surface of leaves, but since the female was attracted to light, it spent a great deal of time at the top of the vial, which may account for the tendency to oviposit there. This positive phototropism was